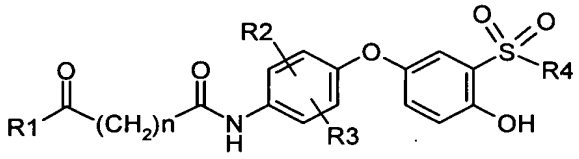
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-27. (cancelled)

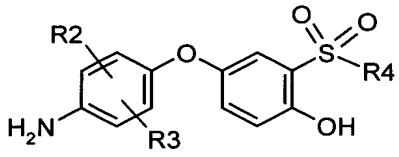
28. (currently amended) A method for the preparation of a compound of the formula



(XIB)

in which R1 is hydroxy, R4 is optionally substituted alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl; R2 is hydrogen, halogen or lower alkyl; R3 is halogen or lower alkyl; and n represents zero or an integer from 1 to 4; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; which method comprises:

(a) condensing the amine of the formula

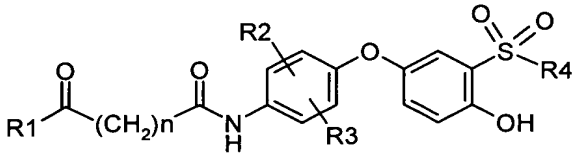


(XA)

with a reactive functional derivative of an acid, said acid being a carboxylic acid of ~~corresponding to~~ the formula

$$R1(CO)\text{-}(CH_2)_n\text{-}COOH \qquad (XIII)$$

in which R1 is optionally substituted alkoxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, aralkoxy, cycloalkoxy or heteroaralkoxy; and n has meaning as defined for formula XIB to obtain a compound of the formula

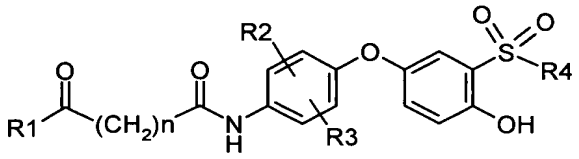


(XIB)

in which R1 is as defined for formula XIII, and R2, R3 and R4 have meanings as defined for formula XIB; and

(b) hydrolyzing the compound of formula XIB in which R1 is optionally substituted alkoxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, aralkoxy, cycloalkoxy or heteroaralkoxy to obtain a compound of formula XIB in which R1 is hydroxy, and R2, R3, R4 and n are as described above; and if desired converting a said ~~compounds~~ compound of formula XIB in which R1 is hydroxy to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

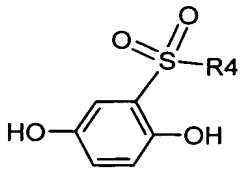
29. (currently amended) A method for the preparation of a compound of the formula



(XIB)

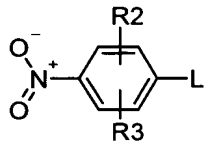
in which R1 is hydroxy, R4 is optionally substituted alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl; R2 is hydrogen, halogen or lower alkyl; R3 is halogen or lower alkyl; and n represents zero or an integer from 1 to 4; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; which method comprises:

(a) reacting a compound of the formula



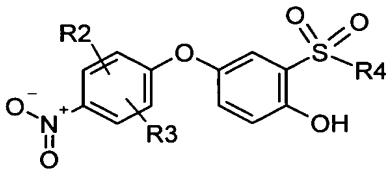
(XII)

in which R4 has meaning as defined for formula XIB with a compound of the formula



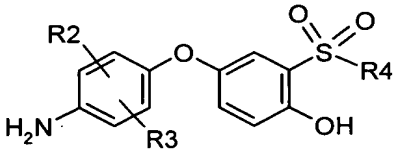
(III)

in which L is trifluoromethylsulfonyloxy, chloro or fluoro, and R2 and R3 have meanings as defined for formula XIB to obtain a compound of the formula



(IXA);

(b) converting the nitro compound of formula IXA to a corresponding amine of the formula



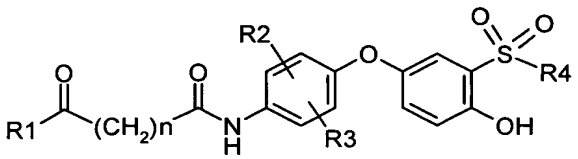
(XA)

in which R2, R3 and R4 have meanings as defined for formula XIB;

(c) condensing the amine of formula XA with a reactive functional derivative of an acid, said acid being a carboxylic acid of ~~corresponding to~~ the formula

$$R1(CO)\text{-}(CH_2)_n\text{-}COOH \qquad (XIII)$$

in which R1 is optionally substituted alkoxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, aralkoxy, cycloalkoxy or heteroaralkoxy; and n has meaning as defined for formula XIB to obtain a compound of the formula



(XIB)

in which R1 is as defined for formula XIII, and R2, R3 and R4 have meanings as defined for formula XIB; and

(d) hydrolyzing the compound of formula XIB in which R1 is optionally substituted alkoxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, aralkoxy, cycloalkoxy or heteroaralkoxy to obtain a compound of formula XIB in which R1 is hydroxy, and R2, R3, R4 and n are as described above; and if desired converting a said ~~compounds~~ compound of formula XIB in which R1 is hydroxy to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

30. (original) The method according to claim 29, wherein the compound of formula XII in step (a) is prepared by reacting 1,4-benzoquinone with a sulfinic acid of the formula

$$R4S(O)OH \qquad (XIV)$$

in which R4 is as defined in said claim.

31. (original) The method according to claim 29, wherein the sulfinic acid of formula XIV is prepared by reducing a compound of the formula

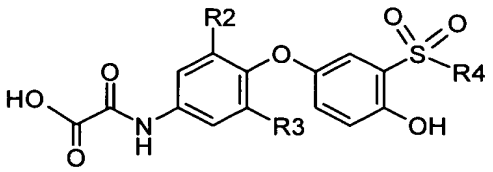
$$R4S(O)_2Cl \qquad (XV)$$

in which R4 is as defined in said claim.

32. (original) The method according to claim 29, wherein the reactive functional derivative of an acid in step (c) is selected from the group consisting of ethyl oxalyl chloride, ethyl malonyl chloride, ethyl succinyl chloride, dimethyl oxalate and diethyl oxalate.

33. (original) The method according to claim 29, wherein R4 is aryl and n represents zero, 1 or 2.

34. (original) The method according to claim 29 for the preparation of a compound of the formula



(ID)

in which R2 is hydrogen, methyl or chloro, R3 is methyl or chloro, and R4 is monocyclic aryl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

35. (original) The method according to claim 34, wherein R4 is phenyl optionally substituted by lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy or trifluoromethyl.

36. (currently amended) The method according to claim 29, wherein the compound of formula XIB is selected from the group consisting of:

N-{4-[3-(4-Fluorobenzenesulfonyl)-4-hydroxyphenoxy]-3,5-dimethylphenyl}oxamic acid;

N-[4-(3-Benzenesulfonyl-4-hydroxyphenoxy)-3,5-dimethylphenyl]oxamic acid;

N-{4-[3-(4-Chlorobenzenesulfonyl)-4-hydroxyphenoxy]-3,5-dimethylphenyl}oxamic acid;

N-{4-[4-Hydroxy-3-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)phenoxy]-3,5-dimethylphenyl}oxamic acid;

N-{4-[4-Hydroxy-3-(4-methoxybenzenesulfonyl)phenoxy]-3,5-dimethylphenyl}oxamic acid;

N-{4-[4-Hydroxy-3-(4-trifluoromethylbenzenesulfonyl)phenoxy]-3,5-dimethylphenyl}oxamic acid;

N-[4-(4-Hydroxy-3-methanesulfonylphenoxy)-3,5-dimethylphenyl]oxamic acid;

N-{4-[3-(Butane-1-sulfonyl)-4-hydroxyphenoxy]-3,5-dimethylphenyl}oxamic acid;

N-{4-[4-Hydroxy-3-(propane-2-sulfonyl)phenoxy]-3,5-dimethylphenyl}oxamic acid

N-{4-[3-(4-Fluorobenzenesulfonyl)-4-hydroxyphenoxy]-3,5-dimethylphenyl}malonamic acid;

N-{4-[3-(4-Fluorobenzenesulfonyl)-4-hydroxyphenoxy]-3,5-dimethylphenyl}succinamic acid;

N-{4-[3-(4-Fluorobenzenesulfonyl)-4-hydroxyphenoxy]-3-methylphenyl}oxamic acid; and

N-{3,5-Dibromo-4[3-(4-fluorobenzenesulfonyl)-4-hydroxyphenoxy]phenyl}oxamic acid;

~~N-[3,5-Dichloro-4-(3-cyclopentanesulfonyl-4-hydroxyphenoxy)-phenyl]oxamic acid;~~

N-[3,5-Dichloro-4-(3-cyclopropylmethanesulfonyl-4-hydroxyphenoxy)-phenyl]oxamic acid;

N-[3,5-Dichloro-4-(3-cyclobutylmethanesulfonyl-4-hydroxyphenoxy)-phenyl]oxamic acid;

N-[4-(3-Cyclopropylmethanesulfonyl-4-hydroxyphenoxy)-3,5-dimethylphenyl]oxamic acid;

N-[3-Chloro-4-(3-cyclobutylmethanesulfonyl-4-hydroxyphenoxy)-5-methylphenyl]oxamic acid;

N-[4-(3-Cyclobutylmethanesulfonyl-4-hydroxyphenoxy)-3,5-dimethylphenyl]oxamic acid;

N-[4-(3-Cyclopentylmethanesulfonyl-4-hydroxyphenoxy)-3,5-dimethylphenyl]oxamic acid;

N-[3-Chloro-4-(3-cyclopentylmethanesulfonyl-4-hydroxyphenoxy)-5-methylphenyl]oxamic acid;

N-[3,5-Dichloro-4-(3-cyclopentylmethanesulfonyl-4-hydroxyphenoxy)-phenyl]oxamic acid;

N-[4-(3-Cyclohexylmethanesulfonyl-4-hydroxyphenoxy)-3,5-dimethylphenyl]oxamic acid;

N-[3-Chloro-4-(3-cyclohexylmethanesulfonyl-4-hydroxyphenoxy)-5-methylphenyl]oxamic acid;

N-[3,5-Dichloro-4-(3-cyclohexylmethanesulfonyl-4-hydroxyphenoxy)phenyl]oxamic acid;

N-[3,5-Dichloro-4-[3-(4-fluorobenzenesulfonyl)-4-hydroxyphenoxy)phenyl]oxamic acid;

N-{3-Chloro-4-[3-(4-fluorobenzenesulfonyl)-4-hydroxyphenoxy]-5-methylphenyl}oxamic acid;

N-{3,5-Dichloro-4-[3-(4-chlorobenzenesulfonyl)-4-hydroxyphenoxy]phenyl}oxamic acid;

N-{3-Chloro-4-[3-(4-chlorobenzenesulfonyl)-4-hydroxyphenoxy]-5-methylphenyl}oxamic acid; N-[4-(4-Hydroxy-3-methanesulfonyl-phenoxy)-3,5-dimethylphenyl]oxamic acid;

N-[3,5-Dichloro-4-(3-ethanesulfonyl-4-hydroxyphenoxy)phenyl]oxamic acid;

N-{4-[3-(Butane-1-sulfonyl)-4-hydroxyphenoxy]-3,5-dichlorophenyl}oxamic acid;

N-[3,5-Dichloro-4-(4-hydroxy-3-phenylmethanesulfonylphenoxy)phenyl]oxamic acid;

N-{3,5-Dichloro-4-[4-hydroxy-3-(propane-1-sulfonyl)phenoxy]phenyl}oxamic acid;

N-{3,5-Dichloro-4-[3-(4-fluorophenylmethanesulfonyl)-4-hydroxyphenoxy)phenyl}oxamic acid;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

37-43. (cancelled)